

## **REGION 6 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **HOT ISSUES**

March 23, 2017

#### **ISSUE: USDOE/NNSA Pantex Plant Superfund Site – Success Story**

#### **BACKGROUND / STATUS:**

The Pantex Plant Superfund Site is an active facility in U.S. Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration (DOE/NNSA) located near Amarillo, Texas, occupying approximately 16,000 acres. Established in 1942 to build conventional munitions and high explosives, it was reclaimed by the Atomic Energy Commission in 1951 for use as a nuclear storage facility. Today the site is managed by DOE/NNSA for the assembly/disassembly and maintenance of nuclear weapons. EPA listed the site on the Superfund National Priorities List in 1994 to address releases of chemical and radionuclide constituents from past waste management practices. In September 2008, EPA approved the Sitewide Record of Decision (ROD) to implement the remedy for contaminants in soils and the Perched Aquifer, overlying the regional Ogallala Aquifer. Construction of the remedy was completed in July 2009; operation and maintenance is ongoing for the remedial systems in place. Those systems focus on the cleanup of the contaminated ground water. Four systems (two pump and treat systems; two in-situ bioremediation systems) address different aspects of the plume of contaminants across the site. The remedy is considered to be protective of human health and the environment.

In 2013, DOE Pantex Plant constructed a five-turbine, 11.5 megawatt wind farm to produce about 47 million kilowatt-hours annually, or about 60% of the energy needed by the Pantex Plant for operations. The generated electricity also powered the ground water treatment systems (extracting and treating over 230 gallons of contaminated ground water per year). At the time of construction, this was the largest federally-owned wind farm located on a Superfund Site.

#### **MESSAGE:**

- The long-term remedial action to address contaminated ground water is implemented and operating as intended to restore the Perched Aquifer and protect the underlying Ogallala Aquifer resource.
- The Pantex Renewable Energy Project has demonstrated that utility-scale renewable energy technology can be successfully constructed on a Superfund site. It is providing energy to operate both the facility and components of the long-term cleanup at considerable cost savings.

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